



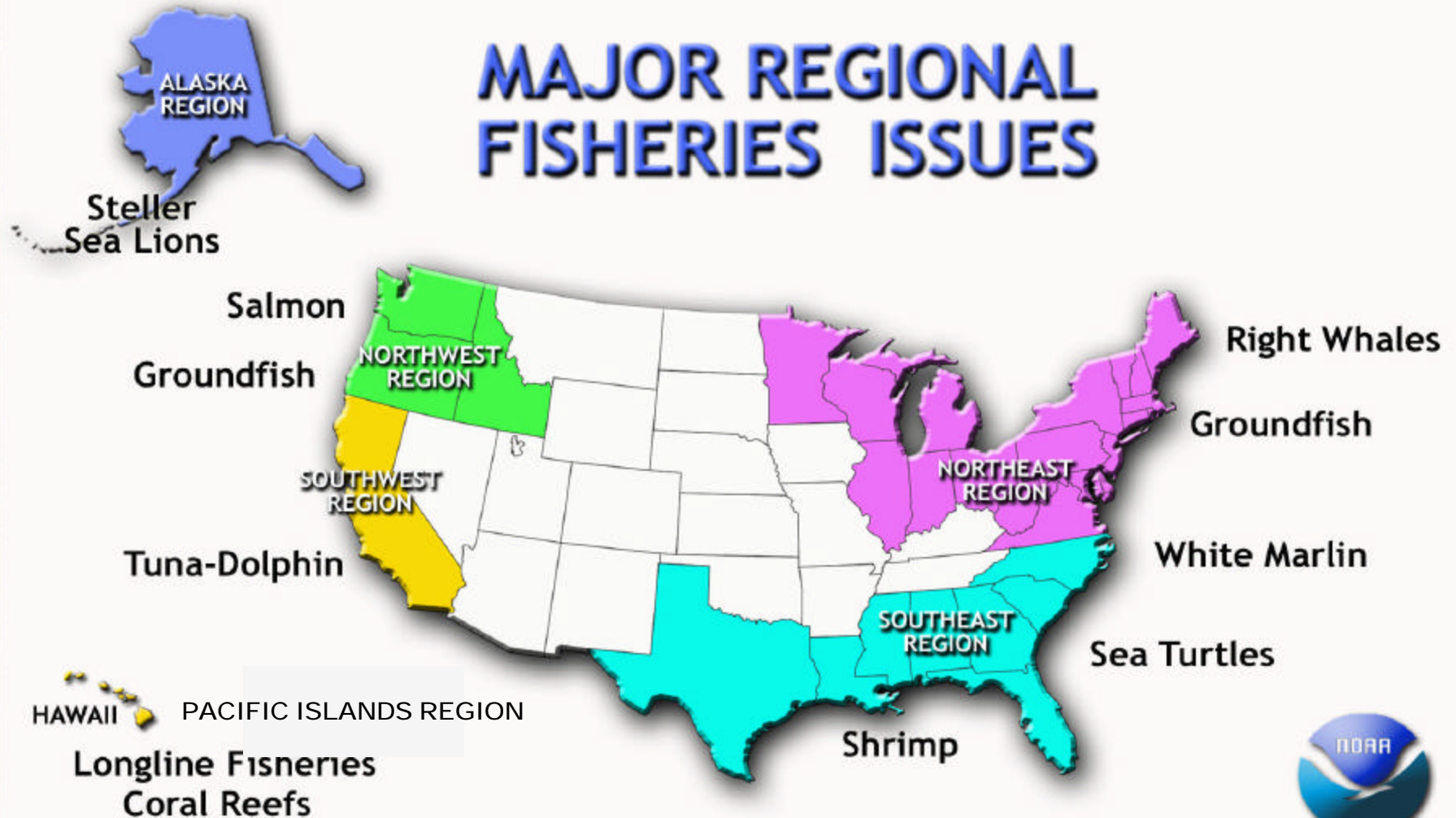
NOAA FISHERIES

2003 Constituent Sessions

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MAJOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ISSUES



Ecosystem management

- Future management strategies are aimed at conserving all living marine resources:
 - Fish
 - Habitats
 - Marine mammals
 - Turtles



NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan Goals

- 1. Improving the information base for stewardship**
- 2. Determining abundance and yield**
- 3. Eliminating overcapacity and overfishing**
- 4. Reducing bycatch**
- 5. Conservation and recovery**
- 6. Protecting and restoring living marine resources**

Available at www.osp.noaa.gov



Major Issues Facing NOAA Fisheries

- Science-based information
- Stock assessments
- Reducing bycatch
- Reduce overcapacity and overfishing
- Funding



Commercial Fisheries

- 9.5 billion lbs. (2001) Dockside value \$3.2 billion- value to consumers \$27 billion
- 9.1 billion lbs. (2000) Dockside value \$3.7 billion
 - ✓ World's 4th largest fishing nation
- Imports valued at \$18.5 billion
- Exports valued at \$11.8 billion
- Fish consumption 14.8 lb per person (2001)

U.S. Total Domestic Landings

YEAR	POUNDS	DOLLARS
2000	9,143,327,002	3,666,270,099
2001	9,517,089,462	3,235,120,808

2001 TOP FIVE SPECIES

<u>Species</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Value</u>
Pollock	3,188,464,545	Shrimp	575,800,673
Menhaden	1,740,706,096	Crabs	380,059,837
Salmon	723,949,524	Lobsters	380,059,837
Cod	505,024,982	Pollock	236,922,977
Hake	422,522,942	Salmon	211,267,403



2001 Landings for Alaska

Top Five Species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Volume</u>
Walleye Pollock	3,178,821,103
Salmon	686,405,144
Pacific Cod	470,768,496
Flounders	247,399,972
Atka Mackerel	125,874,157

<u>Species</u>	<u>Value</u>
Walleye Pollock	230,635,897
Salmon	188,508,286
Crabs	125,874,157
Pacific Cod	117,604,636
Halibut	110,396,276



U. S. Recreational Fishery Statistics

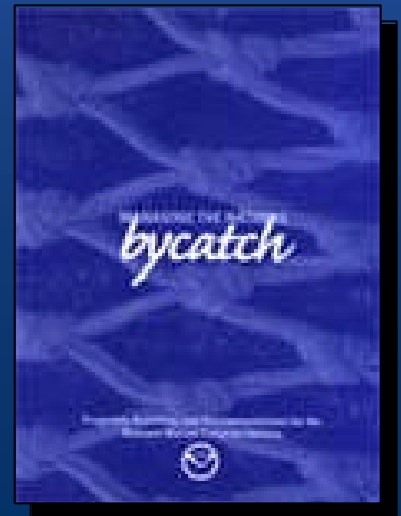
- **Over 17 million participants**
- **Over 65 million fishing trips per year**
- **Over 135 thousand metric tons landed per year**
- **Economic impact of more than \$30 billion**
- **Over \$22 billion in related expenditures**
- **More than 349,000 jobs supported**
- **Over \$12 billion in related personal incomes**

Value Of Other Marine Resources And Their Habitat

- **Intrinsic value**
- **Value to functioning ecosystem**
- **Recreational Value**

National Bycatch Goal

To implement conservation and management measures for living marine resources that will minimize, to the extent practicable, bycatch and the mortality of bycatch that cannot be avoided.



Bycatch Strategy Overview

- *Managing the Nation's Bycatch* – Progress review
- Standardized bycatch reporting methodology
- Regional implementation plans
- Education and outreach
- New international approaches
- New funding requirements



Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorization Bill

- Improve Marine Mammal Bycatch Reduction
- Strengthen Harassment Definition
- Co-management
- Increase Enforcement
- Reduce Ship Strikes





Endangered Species Act Listing Criteria

Will clarify and expand guidance through development of more analytical criteria for whether or not to list species under the ESA :

“in danger of extinction beyond all or a significant portion of its range” (endangered),

or

likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future (threatened).

1992 Recovery Planning Guidance

Are being revised in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service. It will incorporate and reflect policies and case law subsequent to 1992:

- More guidance on development of recovery efforts for the public, state and other partners.

National Standard 1

- **Definition – Conservation and management measures that shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.**



National Standard 1 Guidelines

- Nearly 7 years of experience
- ANPR noted a number of concerns
 - Revisions while rebuilding underway
 - MSST
 - Overfishing of fishery vs. stock
- May consider rulemaking





Essential Fish Habitat

Implementation

- Identified and described EFH for 42 FMPs and nearly 1,000 species.
- Produced guidelines through regulation on fulfilling the EFH mandate (January 2002)
- Learned that we still need considerable basic information about species distribution and habitat use.
- High priority issue this year is to complete EFH Environmental Impact Statements for New England, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Pacific, and North Pacific fisheries.

Regulatory Streamlining Project

- To improve performance, efficiency and accountability
- Improve NEPA expertise within the agency
- “Front loading” the regulatory process
- Electronic rulemaking initiatives
- Delegation of ESA Section 7 authority to the regions



Constituent Services

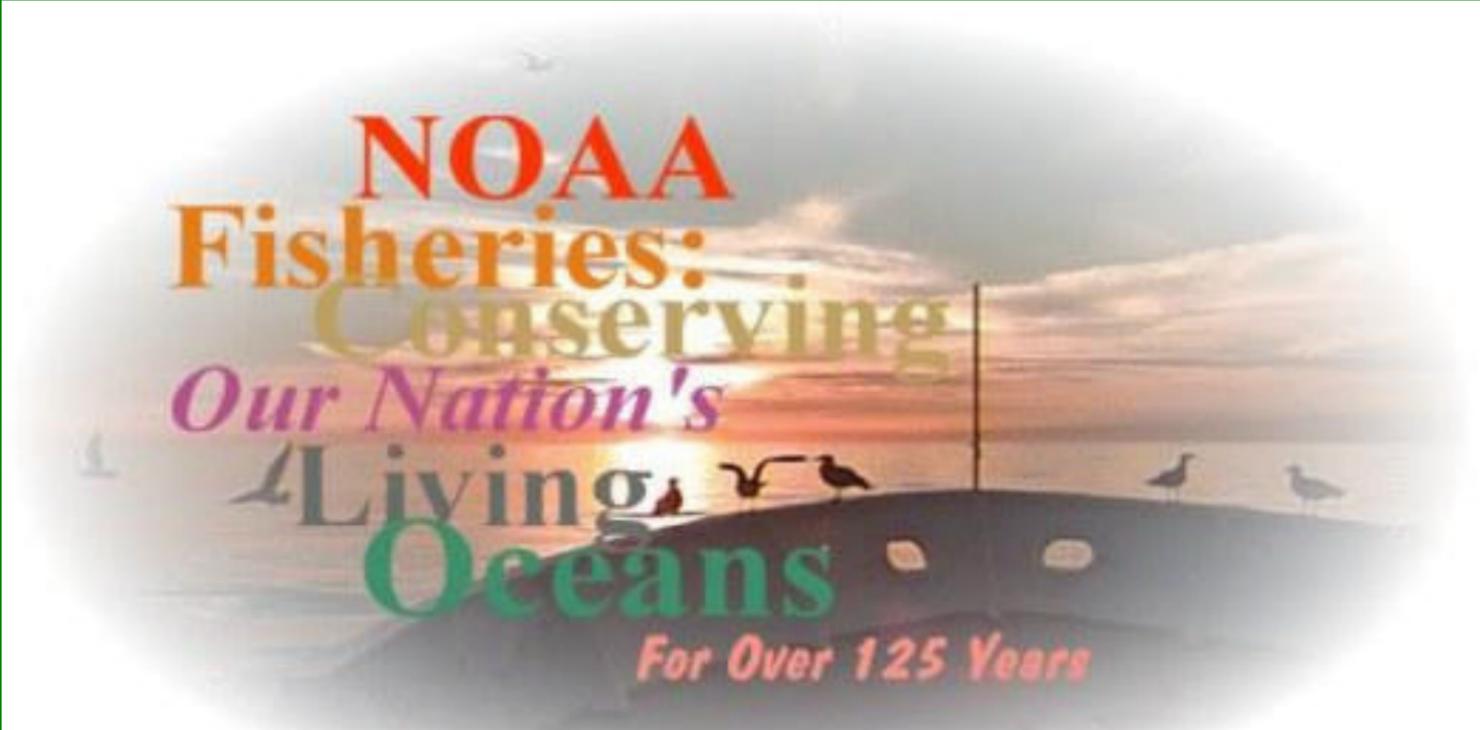
Public Outreach and Education:

- Improving public and constituent relations
 - MAFAC
 - School/Educational Materials
- Improving communications
 - Constituent database
 - Fish list services
 - Web site design



Next Steps

- What are the implications of status quo?
- What are the benefits to be gained?
- What are options for funding sources?



NOAA
Fisheries:
Conserving
Our Nation's
Living
Oceans

For Over 125 Years